



## NAVY COMMAND

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Our Reference *590/9*

Mr Erskine,

1 July 2013

I write to update you on the latest news from HMS Enterprise as the ship undertakes a significant maintenance period in Falmouth following our 9-month deployment East of Suez. Having completed our survey operations in the Red Sea in early April the ship commenced the long journey back to the UK passing through the Suez Canal, across the Mediterranean and arriving back in Devonport, the ship's base port, on 27 May 13.

Whilst passing across the Mediterranean the ship enjoyed visits to Valletta in Malta and also Gibraltar providing the ship's company the opportunity to get ashore and see the sights whilst also forming part of our wider regional engagement commitments and improving diplomatic relations. HMS Enterprise also spent 10 days in the vicinity of Gibraltar surveying British Gibraltar Territorial Waters improving the navigational charts and contributing to the safety of mariners in the region.

Arriving in Devonport on 27 May HMS Enterprise was met by the families and friends of the Ship's Company who were delighted to see the ship returning to UK waters. Returning to Devonport in bright sunshine many of the families and friends took up the opportunity to spend the day onboard the ship and see first-hand the working and living spaces where their loved ones have spent the majority of the last 9-months.

Having completed the deployment cycle there is no rest for Enterprise as she enters a busy maintenance period as we look to prepare the ship for the next 5 years of survey operations. Sailing across from Devonport to Falmouth the ship docked down on 10 June and will remain 'dried out' until the middle of July. Extensive work is being carried out on the ship including the removal and refurbishment of both propellers, the fitting of new sonar equipment capable of even higher resolution imagery of the seabed, upgrades to numerous survey systems and some much needed maintenance on the ship's hull.

The ship will look to complete her refit in early August before undertaking harbour and sea trials throughout August and September. Following these trials Enterprise will remain in UK waters conducting survey operations prior to undertaking a full period of Operational Sea Training early next year in readiness for another foreign deployment conducting military data gathering operations.



Unfortunately the extent of our maintenance package precludes a visit in the immediate future; however, we do have several port visits in the UK later in the year. Most notably we are alongside in Devonport between the 14th and 19<sup>th</sup> October; whilst I realise these dates are some way off please let me know if they appear suitable at this time and I can start to put in place the preparations for a visit. It really would be great to host you onboard. Likewise, as we'll be in the UK for the foreseeable future, we have our full Ship's Company in the UK; should you require personnel from HMS Enterprise to support any events you may be undertaking please let me know and we will do all that we can to assist.

In the meantime please pass on my regards to all at the Survey Ships Association and I will look to keep you updated with the latest activities of HMS Enterprise over the coming months.

P J KELLY

Lieutenant Royal Navy

Navigating Officer

HMS Enterprise in Dry Dock, Falmouth

